

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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S E C R E T MOSCOW 17977

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PARM, US, UR

SUBJECT: TTBT/PNE NEGOTIATIONS: MOROKHOV-STOESSEL CONVERSATION
DECEMBER 16 - ROUND V - TTBT/PNE MESSAGE NO. 50

1. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH MOROKHOV DECEMBER 16, I
RAISED QUESTION OF PRESS STATEMENT CONCERNING RECESS. WE
AGREED THAT, AS IN PAST, NEITHER SIDE WOULD MAKE FORMAL
RELEASE TO PRESS ON RECESS BUT WOULD BE PREPARED TO BEGIN
WORKING RECESS COB DECEMBER 17 AND TO RESUME TALKS IN JANUARY
(NOTE: TIMING OF RESUMPTION DELIBERATELY LEFT VAGUE).

2. WHEN MOROKHOV QUERIED ME CONCERNING OUR VIEWS ON DATE
FOR RESUMPTION, I SAID WE WERE THINKING IN TERMS OF THIRD
OR FOURTH WEEK OF JANUARY. HE THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT
LATE. AFTER I MENTIONED THAT I WOULD BE RETURNING TO
WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS AFTER CHRISTMAS, IT WAS AGREED
THAT WE WOULD LEAVE DATE FOR RESUMPTION IN JANUARY OPEN AND
SUBJECT TO LATER CONFIRMATION.

3. ON QUESTION OF HOTEL SPACE IN MOSCOW, MOROKHOV NOTED
THAT THE LATER THE DATE IN JANUARY, THE HARDER IT
WOULD BE TO OBTAIN ROOMS FOR DELEGATION IN VIEW OF INFLUX
OF PEOPLE INTO MOSCOW CONNECTED WITH 25TH PARTY CONGRESS,
RENOVATION OF HOTELS, ETC. HE PROMISED THAT STATE
COMMITTEE WOULD DO THE BEST IT COULD AND ASKED THAT

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EMBASSY ALSO HELP OUT AS FEASIBLE THROUGH ITS CHANNELS.

4. WHEN I RAISED ON PERSONAL BASIS THE IDEA OF RECONVENING IN GENEVA (GIVEN DIFFICULTY ON HOTELS IN MOSCOW), MOROKHOV SAID THIS WAS NOT EXCLUDED BY SOVIET SIDE. HE THOUGHT THERE MIGHT EVEN BE SOME ADVANTAGE TO MEETING IN GENEVA IN TERMS OF DELEGATION MEMBERS BEING ABLE TO CONCENTRATE MORE INTENSIVELY ON THEIR WORK. ALTHOUGH MOROKHOV FELT GENEVA LOCALE WOULD PRESENT SOME DIFFICULTIES FROM HIS STANDPOINT, AND HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SAME WOULD BE TRUE FOR ME, HE COULD FORESEE POSSIBILITY OF EXPERTS MEETING IN GENEVA FOR A CERTAIN PERIOD WITH DELEGATION CHAIRMEN JOINING DELEGATIONS LATER FOR RELATIVELY BRIEF PERIOD. IT WAS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT, IF WE DECIDED ON GENEVA, SOVIETS SHOULD BE TOLD AS MUCH IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE SO THEY COULD MAKE THEIR ARRANGEMENTS. ON BALANCE, MOROKHOV SAID HE WOULD PREFER TO CONTINUE MEETING IN MOSCOW, BUT HE WAS FLEXIBLE ABOUT GENEVA AND DID NOT WANT TO EXCLUDE IT. IN CONCLUSION, WE AGREED TO LEAVE QUESTION OF LOCALE FOR NEXT PHASE OPEN FOR TIME BEING. STOESSEL

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